

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 2, 2008

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ronnie Torres called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 P.M.
Roll call taken by Sally G. Garley, City Manager.

PRESENT:

Ronnie Torres, Mayor
David Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor
Terese Ulivarri, Councilor
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor

CITY STAFF:

Sally G. Garley, City Manager
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist
Mike Chavez, Police Chief
Lenore Pena, Safety Director

OTHERS:

Norman McDonald, P.A., City Attorney
Jackie Schlotfeldt, VCNB
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T
John Edward, Citizen
CJ Vissar, Sunrise Bluffs
Cindy Clark, Optimist
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Gloria Sanchez, Citizen
Sonny Sanchez, Citizen
Dianne & Helen Mattson, Our Tomorrow
B. Paul Ortega, Our Tomorrow
Loretta Tollefson, MRCOG
Dean Brunkow, Belen Breakfast Optimists

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Cindy Clark to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo so moved to approve. Councilor David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meting: May 19, 2008

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of the minutes for May 19, 2008. Councilor Terese Ulivarri so moved to approve the minutes with addition on her inquiry about transportation for the Rail Runner, which starts on Saturday, was left off and needs to be included under the comments. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Special Meting: May 27, 2008

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of the minutes for May 5, 2008. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo so moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Terese Ulivarri seconds the motion, motion carried.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there was anyone with a citizen petition, no further petitions were presented.

1. **B. Paul Ortega:** said “greetings to all of you, my petition is rather short this afternoon but it is very hot, I was trying to get a smile from you. (laughter) Mayor Torres on June 22 of 2007 Diane and I met with you and the City Manager at the meeting you provided us with a tape recorded plan for capital outlay including relocation of water and sewer lines from the present location to Delgado between Mesa and Skyline. The cost estimate submitted by the engineering firm was nearly two hundred thousand dollars. My first question is; is the Delgado project proceeding to your recorded plan? My second question is will the Delgado project meet the projected time for commencing and finishing work as stated on the recorded tape”. **Mayor Ronnie Torres** said “I don’t know what that actual date was but I know we are working on the plans right now which are design. We hope to, once the design is completed, hopefully within the next few months go out to bid on the project itself. So depending on the time line of how long it would take to finish the project we are looking probably within a year. **B. Paul Ortega** said “so then the project is going on as scheduled is that correct. **Mayor Ronnie Torres** said “yes”. **B. Paul Ortega** continued saying “I would like to request and I hope that you don’t mind providing me with the updated status report to include progress and funding status, reportedly approved by Governor Richardson is there any problem in the funding for the project”. **Mayor Ronnie Torres** said “no”. **B. Paul Ortega** continued saying “can I be assured that the amounts approved by Governor Richardson will be used as initially intended for the Delgado project”? **Mayor Ronnie Torres** said “the money that we got from Governor Richardson was approved for water improvements. So what we did is we had two water improvement projects that we were trying to get, they were both, one of them was arsenic, and the other was the Delgado project and we were told that we were going to get \$250,000 for the arsenic. You guys were told that you were going to get \$250,000 for the Delgado. We got one \$250,000, so what we did was split that to start the design work on Delgado so we can get that started already, and the remainder of the project that is needed for Delgado we are going to use another funding source for that

so it will be completed and the other part of the \$250,000 we are going to use for the arsenic and use another funding source to complete that project too. We are actually working on both of them.” **B. Paul Ortega** continued saying “okay can you provide me with commencing dates as to when the projects going to be started. **Mayor Ronnie Torres** advised “we probably can as soon as we get the complete design plan from the engineers then we have to go out to bid”. **B. Paul Ortega** continued asking “then the project will be completed this year?” **Mayor Ronnie Torres** said “we are hoping, at least within a year.” **Sally G. Garley, City Manager** wanted to make a statement for the record stating “the grant agreement we have not received from the Governors’ office yet, we were talking about that today so I will have Mildred follow up on that tomorrow. Once we get that grant agreement we are assured of the funding being in place by July, okay, but regardless we do have another source of funding to do that project for you and move forward”. **B. Paul Ortega** said “okay then that’s it thank you.

2. **Gloria Sanchez:** Mayor Ronnie Torres said “before you say anything “THANK YOU” it was beautiful, one of the best celebrations we have had there honoring the veterans, because we have had different ones for 911 and different things, that was one of the best and we have had several positive comments on that again thank you for your work. **Gloria Sanchez** said “thank you it was an honor to work on that. Memorial Day was a very beautiful event and I want to thank everyone, importantly it will preserve the legacy of all veterans who have served in all wars. There will be a letter coming out in the News Bulletin thanking all the participants, volunteers and donors to the event as well as the attendees and I appreciate the council for attending. And I especially want to thank and acknowledge Julie Baca for all her help, she designed the programs the invitations she does the emails and all the computer work and puts up with me when I get anxious about things. But I also want to address today a subject that I alluded to at the last council meeting I attended and I would like expand on it if I may. This subject is the Heart of Belen gazebo and its significance. I inherited several dictionaries from my father, the one dictionary Webster’s, since this gazebo has been so controversial I wanted to put a positive note to it, you know I am the type of person that you know if something goes wrong you make it better and you do something about it instead of people that just complain and not do anything. And so Webster’s encyclopedia the new American edition monument, because I feel the gazebo is a monument, any structure building tablet erected to the memory of a person or event; an achievement of lasting value a life or worthy of a monument. This is another dictionary he left me Webster’s new world dictionary with student handbook-monument; something setup to keep the memory of a person or events as a table a statue a building etc. a work of enduring significance a stone marking significance. Another dictionary Webster’s new collegiate dictionary monument-lasting evidence or reminder of someone or something notable, a memorial stone or building erected in remembrance of a person or event or a written tribute. Another dictionary The American Heritage Dictionary based on the new second college edition, monument-a structure preserved for its historical prosthetic significance. I believe that the Heart of Belen Gazebo exemplifies all these definitions we have the plaques of the historical railroad, the Harvey House, we have the dedication of the citizens who have had a positive influence on our city and lastly but not least we have the recent dedication of the bronze plaque for all our armed forces. The Heart of Belen Gazebo is not just a place to hold City events but it is also a monument of lasting significance for today and tomorrow

and it will teach future generations the importance of remembering America's heroes in our community and our country. Thank You".

Mayor Torres asked if there were any further citizen petitions, at this time there were no further citizen petitions presented.

PROCLAIM JUNE 8, THRU JUNE 14, 2008 AS "RESPECT FOR LAW WEEK": Mayor Ronnie Torres

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to proclaiming June 8th thru June 14 as "Respect for Law Week" and read the Proclamation aloud which was later presented to Cindy Clark of the Optimist Club. Cindy Clark and Dean Brunkow thanked the City Council for the Proclamation. Dean Brunkow advised this is the 24th annual respect for law program they are the largest and longest running program in the State of New Mexico. This year we are holding a dinner at the Sheriff Posse Café on Saturday June 14, 2008 6:30 pm program starts at 7:00 pm, tickets are available at the Chamber and Mr. Brunkow. The dinner is a great benefit and we honor seven different law enforcement agencies it is a great tribute to all the men and women that serve not only the state but the county and our cities and we are proud to do that.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CITY OF BELEN STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN COMMITTEE: Mayor Ronnie Torres

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item pertaining to appointments to the City of Belen strategic growth plan committee stating this was a CDBG requirement for a Strategic Growth Plan Committee as per the recommendation of Joe Quintana, and Sandra Gracier whom will be facilitating. The grant committee members must consists of the current boards and commissions. The five names from different boards are: Charles Sanchez, from the Airport Advisory Board; John Trujillo, P&Z Board; Dubra Karnes-Padilla, P&Z Board; Paul Baca, Impact Fee Board and Claudette Riley, Economic Development. Mayor Ronnie Torres advised he was not sure that many meetings would be held, however this was one of the requirements by CDBG (Community Development Block Grant).

Councilor Wayne Gallegos noted that there looked like there were meetings planned every quarter, Councilor Terese Ulivarri added that most of the information would probably be distributed for take home reading and comment. Gloria Sanchez asked if there has always been a strategic growth plan committee. Mayor Torres advised there was one about seven years ago during the Heart of Belen/Becker Avenue project, Mary Lou Chavez started that committee and in fact that documentation may still be in place. Mayor Torres asked if there was any one in the audience who would like to become involved he would welcome them. Councilor Terese Ulivarri said she remembered doing something like this a while back. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo asked if there were no further comments he moves to approve. Councilor Terese Ulivarri seconds the motion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE UPDATE TO THE VALENCIA COUNTY MOBILITY PLAN: Loretta Tollefson

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item on approval of a resolution to accept the update to the Valencia County Mobility Plan as presented by Loretta Tollefson, MRCOG said she was before the council tonight as the final step in the update to the Valencia County Mobility Plan that they have been working on. Loretta advised the original plan was approved in the spring of 2006 and soon after realized within the eighteen months that it had to be updated. One of the major things was the annexation of Rancho Cielo. Public input was taken and a draft plan was drawn up from that input. Those inputs were submitted to the City Council and a copy is attached hereto and made an integral part of the minutes by reference. Loretta advised that the City Council is the first Local Government to take action on plan acceptance.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions. Councilor Terese Ulivarri commented that because of all the preparation that went into the first phase, the initial plan was done so well there were not many problems this time around. People have begun to know Loretta and realize it is a positive status we are taking, good job. Loretta advised she had a lot of comments related to the NM 6 relief route corridor and instead of taking a lot of time with that they are passing that along to Los Lunas because they can consider it a part of their process with Grip 2 funding. Councilor Terese Ulivarri advised that the Meadow Lake area residents also wanted another egress out there and Law Enforcement was included in this phase. Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked if there were no further comments she so moves to approve the plan. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carries.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

City Managers report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez: nothing much to report just please go out and vote tomorrow you are sure to have your answering machines saturated with calls from politicians soliciting your vote. We also had a special meeting last week to go over the budget he wanted to thank Sally and her staff for doing an excellent job on the budget. You read in the news paper daily of projects that are getting slashed and like in Albuquerque Mayor Chavez is not too thrilled what

the Council is doing to his budget; it is just the economy everything is tight and scary. It is nice to see that City staff can do some creative financing and we are able to stay put for another year.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: we hosted the Valencia County Steering Committee and did a presentation and approved it so that it would go out to all the entities within Valencia County. She attended the Memorial Day ceremony and once again that is probably the best one she has attended, very emotional great speaker. Noteworthy, her father will be upset however today his birthday is and he turned 90.

Mayor Ronnie Torres: once again Gloria thank you on that Memorial Day ceremony he has had a lot of good comments on that more than we have ever had. Loretta on the presentation, thank you that is a lot of work that has to be done. He attended a class for the Main Street program, made some contacts good thing he does not have to attend class he would have to be in special education after going from class to class and just hearing instructor after instructor it is intense but good and learned a lot. Regent Raymond Sanchez spoke about the area here and it was a good presentation, there were a lot of good ideas. We heard from the Mayor of Santa Rosa he is a fantastic speaker. I told him if he would come down here to Belen he could have my job, he is just great, got everyone involved with different projects that they wanted to do in Santa Rosa. He said it took them eight years but finally got things going to where they needed to go it was an inspirational speech and we brought back a lot of good ideas for this area. They also reinforced a lot of things we are already doing.

Diane Mattson asked, from the audience, “on Main Street is that something you have to apply to get help for?” Mayor Torres said they only allow so many per year so we have applied to be a certified Main Street Community and we try to talk to some of the people to see if we can get in there, they said we may make it this year and if not maybe next year so we are keeping our fingers crossed. We are a satellite main street community; they have come down and helped us with different things even though we are not an “official” main street community.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos: in reference to the Memorial Day ceremony it was nice. We had different groups from different places and it was well attended. The budget, yes for being the first time up I was kind of worried because of what you read and see that everyone is going through a decline in GRT’s and things are bad everywhere. I am glad that our staff can keep it in between the lines for us and still be able to do what we need to do and get our heads together on the budget. Thanks to everybody.

Gloria Sanchez added that it is sad but we have twelve more memorial bricks to place on the memorial park of soldiers with ties to New Mexico.

Mayor Torres also wanted to add, before he forgot, that he received a nice letter from the head of the library in New Mexico and she said what a wonderful job the building did in filling the Heart of Belen area with the new library, they were very impressed with it and he just wanted to say that publicly. Mayor Torres apologized to Councilor Gallegos who laughed and said “no problem I am part of the advisory board for the library”.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos continued and said it is great to say that but it is work that people had already done. Another thing is respect for law week he is glad that they keep on recognizing different officers from different law enforcement agencies; it is nice to see this is still happening.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: Gloria has mentioned it, Julie, the Mayor and Councilors the Memorial Day ceremony was a success, well attended and great speakers. We remembered our WWII Veterans who stood in front sometimes we tend to forget but those men fought war and I saw those men I was sitting right next to them some of them were on oxygen, some in a wheelchair they stood one day and protected our grounds I think we are what we are because of those men. There were Veterans of the Korean, Vietnam War on and on. Colonel Salas would just grip your soul. In reference to the respect for law week the breakfast optimists have been doing this for some time and it is a great thing they do. It is well attended by not just the families but by the community. Talking about the four wheelers he saw the article in the news paper and it is something neat. He also hears a lot of things about officer Abeyta who is going crazy giving out tickets and he just tells them “well obey the law and he won’t stop you”. A guy ran the stop sign on Mesa and Delgado and he was pulled over, those are areas that are really abused.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked for a motion to adjourn tonight’s meeting.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to adjourn this meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

ss/
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

ss/
Sally G. Garley, City Manager